

Adequacy of payments for long-term care hospital services

ISSUE: Are Medicare's payments for long-term care hospital (LTCH) services adequate? How should payments be changed in 2009?

KEY POINTS: At this meeting, we will examine information about the adequacy of current aggregate LTCH payments. We will look at information about: 1) the supply of LTCHs; 2) changes in the volume of services furnished; 3) beneficiaries' access to care; 4) quality of care; 5) providers' access to capital; and 6) Medicare's payments and costs.

ACTION: Commissioners should discuss the findings presented in the attached briefing materials. The Commission's recommendation about updating payments for LTCHs will be included in the March 2008 report.

STAFF CONTACTS: Dana Kelley (202-220-3703) and Craig Lisk (202-220-3742)